GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6372
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2000
BIO-SAFETY PROTOCOL
DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI;SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Un-sponsored Bio-safety Protocol has been approved by the representatives of more than 130 countries in Montreal;

(b) if so, whether India is also one of the signatories in the above Protocol;

(c) if so, the main features of the Protocol; and

(d) the manner in which India will be benefited?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a) & (b): The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was adopted by the resumed session of the Extra-ordinary meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Montreal in January 2000. India participated in the meeting The Protocol will be open for signature during the fifth meeting of the CoP to the CBD to be held from 15-26 May, 2000 at Nairobi, Kenya and thereafter at United Nations headquarters in New York from 5 June 2000 to 4 June 2001.

(c): The protocol provides for protection in the field of safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity taking also into account risks to human health and specifically focussing on transboundary movements.

(d): The capacity building provision of the protocol provides for strengthening of infrastructure and upgradation of human resources in biosafety in developing country parties.